Restructuring of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security

4034. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVIBARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(b) whether Government are examining a proposal to restructure the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) to make it more effective in the changed aviation security scenario;

(c) if so, whether the Parliamentary Consultative Committee had urged the need to have a fresh look at the manpower requirements of BCAS both at the headquarter and field level;

(d) if so, what are the main points of restructuring proposals that are being worked out; and

(e) to what extent the security of the airports have been further strengthened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. As a part of the ongoing process of strengthening of aviation security, a proposal for restructuring the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has been prepared and the proposal is still at a nascent stage.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The restructuring proposal aims at achieving increased monitoring, inspection and survey of security arrangements.

(c) CISF has been deployed at 46 airports. At the remaining airports, CISF will be deployed in a phased manner. To provide security coverage to the passengers, Sky Marshals are deployed on all flights of Indian registered aircraft at random basis.

Agreement with Saudi Arabia in Air Services

4035. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(b) whether it is a fact that Air India has signed an agreement with Saudi Arabia for increasing the frequency of their flights, if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether it is also a fact that originating points have been added in the flight map of AI; and

(c) whether such kind of agreement has been signed with other countries - for new destination/originating points or increase in the frequency of flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Traffic rights for operation of air services between any two countries are decided at the Government level. During the last round of bilateral air services talk between India and Saudi Arabia held on 29-30 December, 2002 in New Delhi, the capacity entitlement for the designated airlines of both sides was increased from 24 services per week to 31 services per week, with capacity restricted to 8500 seats in each direction. Besides, Cochin was also granted as an additional point of call to the designated airlines of Saudi Arabia.

(a) Air India is already having access to three major airports in Saudi Arabia *i.e* Riyadh, Jeddah and Dammam. Moreover, cap on their operations to Riyadh has been increased from 6 services per week to 9 services per week during the last round of bilateral talks. Air India can operate from any airport in India depending upon commercial requirement.

(b) Requests of other countries for operation of their airlines to different airports are examined as part of an on going process, depending upon traffic demand etc. As part of this ongoing process, bilateral air services talks have been held with Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Turkey, Italy and Gulf Air owner States (UAE, Oman and Bahrain) since January, 2003.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Indian Airlines

4036. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(c) whether the Indian Airlines have launched a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) targeting to reduce its non-operational work force;

(a) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether this scheme would also be applicable to cabin crew, pilots, technicians and aircraft engineers;

(b) if not the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the reduced force would affect the functioning and profitability of the Airlines in the present scenario of competition; and

(f) the alternative arrangement made to meet the situation arising out of shortage of workforce?